The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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SUPREME COURT DESTROYS KANSAS INDUSTRIAL COURT

Washington, April 18.—Compulsory arbitration of industrial disputes is declared unconstitutional and a knockout blow given to the Kansas court of industrial relations in a decision by the supreme court of the United States.

Under the Kansas law the industrial court had the power to fix wages and hours of labor, and compel the operation of essential industries with penalties for both employers and employes for refusing to obey the court's mandate.

The law came before the supreme court on an appeal by the Charles Wolff packing company against an order of the industrial court fixing hours of labor in its plant.

In its decision the supreme court holds that the compulsory system of arbitration enacted into law by the Kansas legislature when it created the industrial court violated the rights of freedom of contract and property guaranteed by the due process of law clause of the federal constitution.

"The established doctrine is that this liberty may not be interfered with under the guise of protecting the public interest by legislative action which is arbitrary or without reasonable relation to some purpose within the competency of the state to effect," the decision declares.

Last year the supreme court decided that the power of the industrial court to fix wages was unconstitutional. The present decision that its power to fix hours is also unconstitutional practically kills the celebrated child of Gov. Henry Allen of Kansas.

Topeka, Kans., April 18.—The Kansas court of industrial relations, by name, ceased to exist a month ago when the legislature created a new state public service commission which absorbed its powers.

COURT DECREE KILLS FORCED ARBITRATION

Washington, April 18.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor in a statement declares the decision of the supreme court of the United States regarding the powers and constitutionality of the Kansas industrial court is a clear vindication of the position regarding the Kansas court of industrial relations by the American Federation of Labor" and "completely destroys the Kansas industrial court act."

"While I have not had an opportunity to study the decision carefully," he said, "my impression is that it most clearly establishes the principle that wages and working hours in private industry can not be fixed by law.

"Through the decision compulsory arbitration has received a death blow and voluntary agreements and voluntary bargaining between employer and employe is firmly and, we hope, permanently established."

SLAVE CONDITIONS IN NON-UNION MINES

New York, April 18.—The 20 per cent reduction by the Berwind-White coal company recalls a severe arraignment of that corporation two years ago by a commission appointed by Mayor Hylan to investigate labor conditions in the Berwind-White mines, located in Somerset and Cambria counties, Pennsylvania. The company supplies coal to the local interborough rapid transit company.

The miners were on strike at the time. The company opposes organized labor. The investigators reported that "no Egyptian Pharaoh, rearing for his glory a towering monument, ever drove his slaves harder than these miners were being driven. No czar was more autocratic than this big business."

"It did not take long," the investigators reported, "to learn that the Berwind-White company officials treated their employes as beasts of burden and sacrificed the lives and limbs of thousands of men and the happiness and future of thousands of women and children to build for themselves an industrial autocracy.

"According to the tales of horror recited before the committee the living and working conditions of the miners employed by the company are worse than the conditions of slaves prior to the civil war."

REPUBLICAN LEADER STUDIES BLOC SYSTEM

New York, April 18.—Representative Snell, chairman of the House of Representatives rules committee, has sailed for Europe to study the legislative procedure of European parliaments.

The recent marked extension of the group system in the U. S. Congress has caused considerable worry to Snell and other stand-patters who pin their faith to the party system.

During the 68th Congress the nonpartisan group of progressives virtually took control of legislation away from the Republican party in spite of its numerical majority in both houses.

The group plan has been in operation many years in European parliaments where it is known as the "bloc" system. It is used effectively by minority groups in combinations to overthrow a government which has the support of the strongest political party in parliament but lacks an absolute majority.

It is understood that Representative Snell will make a profound study of methods resorted to by the standpat European parliaments to protect themselves from the invasions of minority blocs.

MAY 1 IS CHILD DAY; OBSERVANCE URGED

Albany, N. Y., April 18.—The observance as part of May as child health day is urged by Governor Smith in a proclamation.

"May 1 brings to mind the joys of childhood, festivals in the open, the gathering of flowers and a general rejoicing at the springtime evidences of the continuing life and vitality in all nature," the governor said. "It seems very appropriate, therefore, that on this day special thought should be given as to what is being accomplished toward the upbuilding of the health and well being of the children of the nation.

"The children of today are the citizens of tomorrow and their present welfare bears a direct and important relation to the future of the state and the nation. With this in mind, it is hoped that every legitimate agency, including the press, the radio and the motion pictures, may actively co-operate to spread the child health day gospel in every section of the country."

U. S. HELPS PLUTES FIGHT TAX PUBLICITY

Washington, April 18.—Plutocrats and profiteers who want to hide the amount of their wealth from the people have finally reached the United States supreme court, with the Department of Justice as their counsel and defender.

Under a statute specifically enacted by the Congress to secure publicity of income tax returns, certain newspapers published lists of tax payers with the amount of taxes paid.

Some persons who were reputed to be wealthy turned out to be "poor" on the basis of their income tax returns. Others who were regarded as people of modest means confessed that they belonged to the wealthy class.

Big business resented the publicity and fought it in the courts.

The government backed up the profiteers from the beginning and now undertakes to persuade the supreme court to outlaw the publicity. On what ground? The constitution!

The department of justice holds that the statute requiring the commissioner of internal revenue to make "available to public inspection" lists containing the names of tax payers and the amounts paid by each person does not mean available for printing or publishing and maintains that the newspapers which published the lists violated the freedom of press provision of the constitution and outraged the constitutional rights of those who don't want the amount of their taxes made known to their fellow citizens.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMY VICTIMIZES WORKERS

Washington, April 18.—Tax reduction and economy in the administration of the government are set out as the official slogans of the Republican politicians to retain their control of congress in the congressional elections of 1925.

Senator Curtis of Kansas declares that the administration will save half a billion dollars by the reorganization of departments and bureaus now being undertaken by order of President Coolidge.

Representative Madden, chairman of the House appropriations committee, is a bit more conservative and limits the economy stunt to $373,000,000. Madden wants to bring this economy to the direct attention of the individual income tax payer by sending him a government check for his pro rata amount of the economy "dividend." President Coolidge, however, alarmed by the enormous amount of bookkeeping which the Madden plan would entail, favors the less spectacular policy of retiring government securities with certain surpluses that accrue in the treasury.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and his advisers insist that the economy savings shall be used to reduce the surtaxes now imposed on the owners of large incomes.

The administration's economy stunt usually takes the form of discharging government employes, thus depriving them of purchasing power for the support of their families and throwing them into the army of the unemployed.

It is authoritatively stated that the government will dismiss about 2,000 workers in the near future, with more scheduled. But the same fate as the tax reduction policy develops.

Forced unemployment for thousands of deserving government workers will be labor's share of the administration's economy drive.

TRADE UNIONS NECESSARY FOR INDUSTRIAL PEACE

New York, April 18.—"The workers realize that their welfare, their prosperity, and their success, in a great measure, depend upon the establishment and maintenance of peace in industry," William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, told the National Civic Federation at its round table conference on the minimization of industrial controversy.

"From the inception of trade unionism the workers have vigorously contended for the acceptance by the employers of labor of the principle and practicability of collective bargaining and wage contracts," continued President Green. "In fact, one of the primary purposes of organized labor in the formation of trade unions was the reduction of the possibilities of industrial controversies.

"The workers asserted that this was necessary and vital and that it would be a functional process which would enable them to bring about that degree of cooperative relationship between employers and employes which is worthy of the name.

"Industrial controversies, as a rule, arise from differences of opinion exist between employers and employes.

"These differences of opinion may be related to any subject matter affecting industry. Disagreements over wages, hours of employment, working rules, sanitation and various other questions cause industrial conflict.

"Perhaps the greatest source of industrial conflict is the refusal of employers to permit their employes to exercise the right to join labor unions.

"In fact the most bitter, costly and far-reaching strikes in history were due to the hostility of employers toward the organization of their employes.

"In the light of this experience is it not therefore reasonable to conclude that employers of labor would accept trade unionism as an essential part of industry and would treat with their employes collectively strikes inaugurated for the purpose of establishing organization would be entirely eliminated?

"This would remove one of the greatest causes of industrial controversy. This would be a reasonable, rational policy for enlightened employers to pursue.

"In some form or another efforts have been made to destroy organization among the workers or to prevent them from organizing into trade unions. This policy has been pursued for many years.

"Even some employers spend large sums of money in employing spies and so-called guards in their efforts to prevent their employes from organizing.

"Relentless warfare, conducted for the purpose of exterminating the organization, has been waged by employers through the application of the blacklist, the boycott, and through the discharge of workers who are active in the work of organization.

"In view of the fact that all of these destructive measures have failed and labor organizations instead of being destroyed have grown both in numbers and influence, why should employers continue this mode of industrial warfare?

"Instead of trying to destroy labor organizations can not be destroyed or prevented, why not recognize their value and merit and accept from them the benefits they can give through their organized effort?

"Many forward-looking, progressive employers have caught this spirit and have accepted trade unionism as an institution."

Referring to the right and determination of the workers to organize, President Green said:

"There is no power which can be invoked which will prevent the workers from organizing into trade unions. They will unite for mutual protection and in the interests of their common welfare.

"Opposition to organization only inspires them to greater effort. They have a right to organize into trade unions and will insist upon the exercise of that right. Through their organization they have accomplished much good and have achieved great success.

"The expenditure of large sums of money on the part of employers in trying to prevent the workers from organizing is a waste of money, time and effort. This waste is made up of the expenditure of money, loss of time and the good will and cooperation. The value of such waste can not be adequately computed.

"All of this could be entirely eliminated and industrial controversies would be greatly reduced if employers of labor would recognize that trade unions would cease their destructive tactics and would permit the workers to join labor organizations when they desired to do so."

FEDERAL POWER PLANTS ARE NOT SOCIALISM

Washington, April 18.—The charge of socialism against those who advocate federal ownership of Muscle Shoals and other hydro-electric systems is not justified, declares Rev. John A. Ryan, D. D., in replying to critics of his position in favor of public ownership of the great southern hydro-electric plant.

"Government ownership and operation of Muscle Shoals would not be socialism, nor socialistic, nor even 'a step toward socialism' in any intelligible sense of the phrase," Dr. Ryan says.

"Government ownership of not merely Muscle Shoals but the whole superpower system of the country would not constitute socialism, nor necessarily bring it any nearer. Government ownership of super-power has had no such effect in the Province of Ontario.

"Many countries have for many years had government ownership of railroads, but none of them has found that this enterprise created or increased the likelihood of lapsing into socialism. Indeed, the notion that government ownership and operation of a super-power system is a step toward socialism is just as little justification as the statement that such government enterprise is socialistic. Government ownership is not the instruments of production is socialism. Government ownership of one or more public utilities is not socialism."

PHOSSY JAW VICTIM DENIED COMPENSATION

Richmond, Va., April 18.—"Phossy jaw" does not entitle a worker to compensation under the Virginia workmen's compensation law, according to a ruling handed down by the state industrial commission.

"Phosphorous jaw" is an occupational disease contracted by unprotected workers who are compelled to come into contact with phosphorous fumes.

Roxana Fultz was employed by the Virginia fireworks company of Petersburg. The phosphorous permeated her system so that there was a gradual decay of the bone of her jaw. Physicians declared that she was "dying by inches."

The industrial commission reaches its decision by interpreting the compensation act as limited to "injury by accident," and that "phossy jaw" does not come within the limitation.

HAZED MIDSHIPMAN GETS COMPENSATION

Washington, April 18.—The interior department has ruled that a naval academy midshipman who was severely injured by a group of hazing students is entitled to compensation.

"Hazing is in violation of the academy rules," said the department, "and the claimant was entitled to such protection as would prevent the act, which was not afforded him. To hold that the victim was out of line of duty when the fact is that it was the hazers who were out in line of duty, is a paradox. The most that can be said adversely to the appellant's claim is that he did not promptly complain against these upper-class men."

TEACHERS' PLIGHT IN SOVIET RUSSIA

Geneva, Switzerland, April 18.—The International Labor Office reveals the tragic conditions of labor among the teachers of Soviet Russia in a report summarizing the facts presented at the first Soviet congress of elementary and secondary school teachers held in Moscow in January of this year.

"Since the Bolshevist revolution, the teaching profession in Russia has been, and still is paid lower than any other branch of intellectual labor, even lower than industrial workers, in spite of the increased salaries granted from 1922 onwards," declares the report.

"The poorness of salaries and the want of regularity in their payment formed the subject of numerous complaints before the congress.

"Attention was drawn, by a large number of delegates to the conference to the tyrannical action of the local authorities toward the teachers, notably as concerns the continual transfers and irregular dismissals.

"Housing conditions in the provinces are lamentable. The schools and quarters provided for the teachers are either in ruins or in an advanced state of dilapidation, having evidenced no repairs since the revolution.

"The trade union organization is weak. The delegates were unanimous in declaring that the union does nothing to defend the interests of its members."

The congress declared that "the first duty of the union was to obtain the regular payment of salaries which up to the present have generally been paid in arrears and with reductions, especially in the provinces," and to "oppose the arbitrary dismissals and transfers to which its members are subjected. Frequently subjected by local authorities."

POSTMASTERS ORDERED TO JOIN COMPANY UNION

Washington, April 18.—Postmaster General New has directed postmasters throughout the country to join the local organizations of federal officials and employes in their respective stations and to take an active part in the organization of new associations.

Cooperative effort in President Coolidge's policy of "economy and efficiency" make the compulsory membership necessary, declares the postmaster general.

LABOR LURED TO WEST; THOUSANDS ARE IDLE

Los Angeles, Cal., April 18.—This city is paying for a frenzied campaign to increase its population by luring people here through devices of real estate men and speculators. Idleness prevails to a large extent, and this has resulted in a general disregard of law.

"There can be no denial of the fact that an amazing number of men are unable to find work in Los Angeles," says the Southern California Labor Press. "They tramp the streets day after day, and sleep wherever they can. Thousands of them are hungry. Many of them are filled with hatred against the agencies which lured them to southern California through misrepresentation. Lying literature depicting in glowing language opportunities which await all who come to Los Angeles brought them here. They were deceived. Thousands—yes, tens of thousands—of men are hungry and desperate in this city today.

"The 'big men,' so-called, of Los Angeles, are too busy trying to increase its population; it would be far better for them, and for the city, were they to devote some of their attention to providing employment for the idle, or, better still, saving wages. Were they to do this, Los Angeles no longer would be 'the third worst city in the United States in crime,' even though the police accord criminals 'absolute protection.'"

SENATOR THINKS COURTS GUARD PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

Kansas City, Mo., April 18.—"The federal courts of the United States have always been the fortress of refuge to which the citizen has fled when about to be deprived of rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution," Senator James A. Reed of Missouri declared in a speech before the Kansas City Bar Association.

The Senator failed to add that so far has labor citizens are concerned the federal courts have almost universally deprived them of their fundamental constitutional rights and liberties and made freedom of press and speech mere paper rights when their unrestricted exercise becomes important for the protection of the workers' interests.

Senator Reed has evidently never heard of the injunction in labor disputes. The most drastic ones have come from federal judges.

POWER CHIEF HITS GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

Louisville, Ky., April 18.—Public ownership and operation of the electric light and power industry will ultimately land America in the bog of Russian communism, declared Samuel Insull of Chicago, chairman of the board of directors of the Middle West Utilities Company, in an address to members of electrical power development.

"Government ownership, once begun, will soon extend to the factory and the farm—to the government ownership of all business and industry, including colleges and universities and newspapers that play with the idea," Insull said. "It will be the first step toward a full communistic program, as exemplified in Russia."

ONLY SIX STATES LACK COMPENSATION LAWS

Washington, April 18.—There are now but six states in the United States, besides the District of Columbia, without workmen's compensation laws, according to a bulletin issued by the bureau of labor statistics giving the status of compensation legislation as of January 1, 1925.

The black states are: Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

The changes effected by recent legislation "liberalize the laws by reducing the waiting time, increasing the amount of benefits paid, either by percentage increase raising the maximum, or both, and by increased medical aid."

Six states—Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Porto Rico, Washington, and Wyoming—have the exclusive state fund system.

Employes in agriculture and domestic service are excluded in all jurisdictions except Hawaii and New Jersey. Casual workers are also quite generally barred from benefits.

Twelve states and the federal government now recognize occupational diseases as compensable.

LABOR POLITICIANS DETRIMENT TO UNIONS

London, Eng., April 18.—Political activity by trade unionists is a detriment to the trade union movement, according to Fred Bramley, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress.

The trade union movement is robbed by many of its most capable leaders by the more attractive career offered in political activities and organization, Bramley declared. "The departments of trade union organization are continually being disorganized, dislocated and reduced in efficiency by the withdrawal of those most capable to develop the efficiency of the trade union movement."

BAKERS FACE CHANGES

Chicago, April 18.—Consolidations of plants and the installation of highly technical machinery in the bakery industry have brought a new condition to these workers. It is declared that the inclusiveness of unorganized workers in these large plants is more pronounced than when the small shop dominated this industry.

ANTI-UNION EMPLOYERS WIN COURT DECISION

Washington, April 18.—Organized anti-union employers do not interfere with the constitutional right of men to enter into a combination to deprive builders of supplies unless they join the anti-labor movement, according to a decision by the supreme court of the United States.

In their attempt to destroy the trade union movement in San Francisco the anti-union employers adopted a permit system under which supplies could be obtained only by builders who would agree to join the anti-union movement. The injunction applied to supplies produced in other states and brought into California.

In 1921 the government charged the anti-union employers with conspiracy in restraint of interstate and foreign commerce in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act.

The government won its case in the federal district court for the northern district of California, Judge Dooling issuing an injunction perpetually restraining the union employers from engaging in their secondary boycott.

The anti-union employers appealed to the supreme court of the United States, and have succeeded in having this tribunal reverse the decision of the district court.

The supreme court holds that in as much as the imported building material came to rest within the state and it had ceased to be a part of interstate commerce.

Moreover, the value of the imported material was small in comparison with the aggregate value of all material brought into the state during the period under consideration.

Therefore the court could not see how it could decide that there had been a conspiracy to restrain interstate commerce.

The building associations affected by the decision include the Industrial Association of San Francisco, California Industrial Association, Industrial Association of Santa Clara County, Builders' Exchange of San Francisco, Builders' Exchange of San Jose, and the Master Plumbers' Association.

HOUSING SHORTAGE ENGLAND'S PROBLEM

London, Eng., April 18.—Great Britain's shortage of houses must be gotten rid of, according to Prime Minister Baldwin.

"We want the people to own their homes, the premier says, and we shall devise every fair means we can to extend the class of occupying owners."

One of the fairest means to enable workers to become home owners is to insist on a wage standard high enough to enable the workers to buy houses. This means the prime minister opposes the "dole" in regard to present low wages as permanent, and then "stimulate" housing capitalists by "the easy mortgage supply" of "small" houses for the workers by some sort of an arrangement that will guarantee the capitalists unusually large profits.

French Labor Wins Economic Council

Paris, April 18.—The French government has created a national economic council whose object is "to consider questions connected with the economic life of the country, to find solutions for such questions, and to propose to the government the adoption of these solutions."

The council is composed of 47 members representing the federal of labor and economic forces of the nation. "Labor" has 30 members, "capital," eight, and "liberal professions" nine. Members of the council are chosen in each category by the "most representative organization or organizations."

The labor group includes intellectual labor and manual labor, industrial labor and commercial labor, agricultural labor, salaried work, and urban and rural crafts.

The capital group includes industrial and commercial capital, immovable capital (rural and urban property), banks, stock exchanges, insurance funds and savings banks.

The consuming public group includes consumers' co-operative societies and purchasers' unions, associations of mayors and unions of towns, users of public services, fathers and mothers of families, and mutual benefit associations.

The council's functions are of an advisory nature. "It will in no sense be a parliament or even an industrial parliament such as has been tried in certain neighboring countries," declares a statement by the prime minister. "It is the intent to preserve the sovereignty of parliament and the authority of the government. It will form, one might say, a consulting board for public opinion. It should also form a valuable center of economic information for the use of government departments, parliament, and all who are concerned."

The council will hold four 10-day sessions a year with a permanent committee to carry on its work.

The establishment of a national economic council was demanded six years ago by the French federation of labor. Organized labor insisted that the council should have legislative power in economic matters and enjoy complete autonomy. As finally decreed, the council has no legislative authority and is attached to the prime minister's office.

Despite these deficiencies, the representatives of the federation of labor accept the council as a step in the right direction and will work for an enlargement of its powers.

HISTORIANS AND EDUCATORS IGNORE HISTORY OF LABOR

Portland, Ore., April 18.—Historians and directors of American educational institutions have a well defined policy to keep a knowledge of the history of labor from students, according to Edward O. Sisson, professor of philosophy in Reed College, Portland.

In his book, "Educating for Freedom," Professor Sisson devotes a chapter to the "Educative Use of History," and criticizes in emphatic language the extent to which the "history of labor or the laboring class" is ignored by history writers and teachers. His indictment reads:

"Most of this history was submerged even while it occurred, and little record has ever been made of it until our own day.

"It is only three or at most four generations since laboring men were indicted in both England and the United States for daring to unite for the purpose of raising their wages and improving their conditions of life.

"But these feeble beginnings of labor organizations certainly proved to be one of the most potent seeds of history now to be reckoned with by everyone who desires to understand.

"Yet even now our school instruction practically ignores the whole movement; the most trivial and inconsequential topics get more space and consideration.

"In the education of an American citizen in the twentieth century, the history of labor is far more worthy of a quarter or a semester of study than the history of any foreign country, not excepting even Greece or England.

"One of the grave defects of history as it is written and studied today is its prevailing silence and neglect toward this great and growing interest."

ORIENTAL SMUGGLERS ON AMERICAN VESSELS

San Francisco, April 18.—The smuggling of opium into this country increases in proportion as the American merchant marine is "Americanized" by the employment of Orientals.

There is a mass of evidence to show that a very large percentage of this smuggled drug comes via the Oriental employes of American ships plying between Asiatic and American ports.

At least a part of the responsibility for the drug traffic must be shouldered by those who insist upon employing Asiatics on American ships," declares Paul Scharrenberg, editor of the Seaman's Journal.

"Within a few months large quantities of drugs are regularly brought into San Francisco is proven by the frequent raids in the federal district for the northern district of opium, morphine, and heroin, and positive evidence of smuggling by Oriental crews.

"Old timers in the San Francisco customs service assert without hesitation that in the one year scores of scores of Orientals, whose names are listed on the shipping articles as members of the crew, is engaged in smuggling. These men are uncanny in their ability to masquerade as ship employes when they are in reality engaged in smuggling dope. As seamen they are able to get by where they couldn't as ordinary passengers. Owning a vessel ship is not their business—many of them are wealthy and, as a matter of fact, don't need to work. But the temptation for big profits is more than some of them can withstand."

Editor Scharrenberg calls attention to the increase in smuggling along the Atlantic coast as the employment of Orientals increases. Recently a large quantity of opium and opium smoking outfits were taken from the United States shipping Board vessel Hayes, operation of Santa Clara County, Builders' Exchange of San Francisco, Builders' Exchange of San Jose, and the Master Plumbers' Association.

NON-UNIONIST PAYS LOWER WAGE SCALE

Toledo, Ohio, April 18.—The reason trade unionism is opposed by certain employers is explained by Edward W. Clark, president of the American Flint Glass Workers' union. He compares union scales with rates paid by the Macbeth-Evans company at its Marion, Ind., plant.

The union schedule for work on a No. 1 electric bulb is $4.20 per thousand, while the anti-union firm pays but $2.15 per thousand. Although the union price averages more than 50 per cent less than the union rate. In some instances the rate is as low as $2.18.

President Clark also points out that the Macbeth company works longer hours than union shops.

"The old cry," said the trade union official, "has been that the employers would be forced to consider labor in the factory committee, that they want to manage their own business, etc. Where for these things are committed by great for the workers, the foregoing is the result."

GOVERNMENT RAILROAD TURNS IN LARGE PROFIT

Balboa Heights, Canal Zone, April 18.—Government ownership of railroads pays in the Canal Zone.

The board of directors of the Panama railroad company, owned by the United States, has declared an annual dividend of 5 per cent, amounting to $350,000. A check for this amount has been forwarded to the U. S. treasury at Washington.

The main line of the railroad runs from Colon on the Atlantic to Panama on the Pacific.